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GUIDED MISSILE AND ASTRONAUTICS INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to DCI for NIPE

SUBJECT: Evaluation of the Defense Intelligence Agency

This memorandum was prepared as a result of the action memorandum No. A-437, dated 30 November 1964. As Chairman of the Guided Missile and Astronautics Intelligence Committee (GMAIC), I have frequent contact with representatives of DIA, but since my contacts are limited to a relatively small segment of the organization, I do not consider that I am in a good position to provide any overall evaluation of its performance. However, the following comments might be helpful in such an evaluation.

Based on a USIB decision, the membership of GMAIC was not changed as a result of the change in Board structure, thus the military departments as well as DIA still have full membership. The DIA member is highly competent, but he is handicapped in that there is no appreciable missile and space analysis capability within the DIA. He must therefore rely on analysis performed by the military departments. Since I have direct access to that analysis capability through the military department members, it is unusual that the DIA member can really make a direct contribution to our activities. In a couple of cases, senior individuals in DIA attempted to interfere with committee actions, particularly when the analytical organizations in the military departments were requested to undertake a special study in direct support of GMAIC requirements. Some rather blunt conversation between myself and these officials seemed to solve the problem, and there has been no difficulty in the past several months.

DIA has been studying the overall Defense Department missile and space analysis function for the past year, and I understand it has recently decided to considerably reduce the amount of duplication now existing between the various agencies involved. For example, the tentative decision has been reached to largely eliminate Army analysis of

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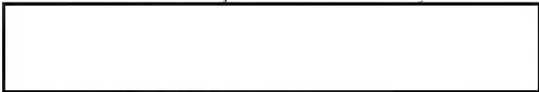
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Soviet ICBM and space vehicles and to leave primary responsibility to the Air Force. If this decision is final and such action is taken, it will tend to reduce the effectiveness of GMAIC. Past performance has indicated that no one agency has consistently arrived at the right answer, and in some of the more crucial questions, such as size of Soviet ICBM's, the Air Force batting average isn't too good. I believe GMAIC has been fairly effective in resolving some of these issues since it had free access to the views of all organizations. I have considerable concern that DIA intends to channel more and more of the analysis effort through their staff, making it more difficult for the committee to get the benefit of minority views. If this, in fact, comes about, it will deprive the committee of much of the technical support needed to perform its mission.

If I put myself in the position of a user of DIA missile and space information, I consider their in-house capability very limited and of marginal value in solving the highest priority technical problems. Representatives of the DIA Production Center serve on a number of the committee working groups but seem to have detailed knowledge only in the areas of Soviet missile production and non-Soviet missile problems, particularly China. In other areas, such as technical characteristics of weapon systems, DIA working group members rely entirely on military department information, and since these departments are also on the working groups, DIA adds little, if anything, to the working group product.

It is recognized that some of the potential problems discussed above are treated from a rather selfish GMAIC point of view and that the proposed DIA actions may, in fact, be justified from the point of view of economy and efficiency.


CARL E. DUCKETT
Chairman

Guided Missile and Astronautics
Intelligence Committee

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